(c) and (d) 90 Mine Protected Vehicles (MPVs) have already been imported and deployed in the Northern and Eastern Commands. Action to acquire more MPVs is being taken.

Problem of Terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

3370. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Goverment's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "Clinton ke daure se pahle hi ghati mein tabahi ki sazish" as appearing in the Dainik Jagran dated 7th February, 2000;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what measures Government propose to take to tackle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) Government are aware of the news report regarding efforts to upgrade the militancy in J&K before the visit of US President.

Adequate measures have been taken to check infiltration from across the border and to tackle the problem of terrorism in J&K. Three tier deployment is being maintained and operations are carried out in the hinterland to deal with terrorists who have infiltrated.

News-Item "Pakistan plotting Kargil type offensive"

3371. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned Pakistan plotting Kargil type offensive as reported in the "Times of India', dated the 31st January, 2000;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Pakistani military planners have directed big mercenary groups to attempt to cut-off the Jammu-Srinagar and Jammu-Poonch highways in a bid to isolate the troops stationed on LoC among other plans on lightly held heights; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to combat the aggression?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) The Government are aware of Media reports regarding the Pakistani intention of opening new Kargil like fronts. Our troops have been alerted and are vigilant to effectively counter any such Pakistani threat.

While active support and sponsorship of terrorism by Pakistan continues, there are no specific reports to corroborate the directions referred to in part (b) of the question.

Additional troops have been inducted into J&K and are kept ready to react to any misadventure Pakistan may undertake along the Border in J&K.

Developing indigenous Technology of vital system

3372. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:
MISS MABEL REBELLO:
SHRI SURESH KALMADI:
MISS FRIDA TOPNO:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to inordinate delay by the DRDO in develpoing indigenous technology for vital systems of the Sukhoi-30 fighters has badly affected the supply of these fighters by Russia;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the details of alternate arrangements made by the Defence Ministry to procure these vital systems to make the fighters updated as intended to be?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Projects delayed because of developing indigenous technology

3373. MISS MABEL REBELLO:
MISS FRIDA TOPNO:
SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to inordinate delay in developing indigenous technology by DRDO for vital systems it has affected major projects;

(b) if so, the details of the projects thus affected during the last five years; and

(c) the steps taken/being proposed to be taken to complete these projects?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Delay in developing state-of-the-art technologies indigenously has affected development of light combat aircraft (LCA), remotely piloted vehicle (RPV)